

**MARCH 2003 AGENDA**

SUBJECT	X	ACTION
		INFORMATION
		PUBLIC HEARING
High Priority Schools Grant Program – New Implementation Grant Awards		

Recommendation:

Approve applications for additional schools to participate in the High Priority Schools Grant Program (HPSGP).

Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action

Beginning with its June 2002 meeting, the State Board of Education has approved applications for 567 schools to participate in the High Priority Schools Grant Program. Of the original schools that applied for the program, only one remains to be brought before the Board for consideration if it completes an approvable application.

Summary of Key Issue(s)

In September 2002, AB 425, the Budget Act of 2002, appropriated an additional \$20 million to allow more schools in the first decile of the 2001 Academic Performance Index (API) to participate in the High Priority Schools Grant Program. As a result, the base funding for the program increased from \$197 to \$217 million. Based on this amount, the HPSGP Office calculated that an additional 91 new schools could be added to the program.

Selected schools were mailed letters on September 27, 2002 informing them of their eligibility and asking them to return Letters of Intent to apply by October 18, 2002. Upon receipt, schools were provided information to guide them through the application process and told that their narrative summaries and completed applications were due to the Department by February 10, 2002.

Applications received by this date will be subjected to a thorough review by program staff. Narratives will be reviewed to insure they address the seven key elements needed for program approval. Budgets will be inspected to ensure they are accurate and aligned with program objectives. Finally, staff will complete a technical review of each application to ensure all required forms, signatures, and assurances are included.

Names of successful applicants will be recommended for approval and provided to the Board through the supplemental mailing for its March meeting.

Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate)

The Legislature has appropriated \$217 million in FY 2002-03 for this program. The Department's recommendation to add up to 91 new schools to participate in the High Priority Schools Grant Program is contingent upon this \$217 million figure. Should this amount be modified or eliminated during the mid-year budget reduction process, the Department will modify this recommendation accordingly.